

Unborn - Chapter 00-03

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Prologue

Prologue

Verenia looked down at the small child in her arms then out the large window toward the lights that flashed in the distance. Out there, her love Ele was fighting against impossible odds to buy her time to save their son. The day she had chosen to love Ele she knew this day would come. There was only one price for their crime and that was death. For the nobles and dragons of this world it was the largest taboo. It was thousands of years ago when it was breached the child of the two, harmony between human and dragon, that had nearly brought the world to ruin.

“All was well worth it,” Verenia said as she looked to the smiling baby in her arms.

Spirits of the world heed my call and answer my wish. As the words flowed from her mouth she felt the power rising through her body. Among the nobles she was one of the strongest in magical power but the amount flowing through her now was near her limit. Uncaring about her own safety she continued.
Darkness and light answer me and build a path that none may follow.

Verenia felt the power course through her body as a small white swirling mass appeared before her. Placing her baby in a small basket she pushed it through and prayed that it would find happiness on the other side.

As the child disappeared and the gate blinked out of existence, Verenia collapsed on the ground bleeding from her eyes, nose, and ears. Her vision started to blur, looking back to where her love fought, she let out a strained smile as the last of her life force left her.

The light was waning and Neil knew that it would be nearly impossible to reach home before nightfall. Sighing inwardly he slightly raised himself in his seat to try and relieve some of the pain in his lower back when a loud roar echoed through the small valley as if lightning had struck.

Great gusts of wind suddenly attacked and Neil was forced to pull the wagon off the road. Getting down from the driver’s seat Neil moved a little way away from the wagon and sat in a small ditch to wait out the wind storm.

After a few seconds the wind died down and Neil was left baffled. Before he had a chance to sort out what had happened a loud crying noise could be heard. Following the noise Neil found a small child laying on the ground. “Now where did you come from,” Neil said with a smile as he lifted the child gently in his arms.

The child in his arms had strange blue eyes with slit pupils and his hair was a bright silver. Neil looked for the child’s parents but when he found none he decided that the child was a gift from the gods. He and his wife had been trying to have a child for years unsuccessfully, and now they had been granted their wish.

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Translator: Binhjamin

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Ten years later.

Skyler's eyes slowly opened. Something important was going to happen today but he couldn't remember what it was. Swinging his feet over the edge of the bed he rubbed the sleep from his eyes and attempted to clear his mind. As the morning fog cleared from his mind his eyes opened wide showing off his bright blue cat-like eyes.

"Ah, the Dragon Knight is coming today."

The monsters in the nearby forest had increased tenfold over the past year, causing trouble for the small village. His father the village chief had asked the capital for help and they had agreed to dispatch a Dragon Knight.

Skyler had only seen a dragon once before when he was seven years old as it flew over the village. At that time, he believed it to be the most beautiful creature that he had ever seen. Ever since that day, it had been his dream to join the Knights and get a dragon of his own.

After getting dressed, he looked tried to examine himself using a small piece of polished metal as a mirror. He was short even for his age and his skin was smooth and milk-white. His body was thin and his silver hair hung down to the middle of his back. After being mistaken for a girl by a traveling merchant he had begged his mother to cut his hair but she refused saying, "Sky's hair is too beautiful to cut." His father had wanted a son but his mother had wanted a daughter and in the end Skyler was treated as both. His clothes were pants but they were a deep red trimmed in silver giving off a feminine vibe.

"Sky, I need your help," his father called from outside.

"Coming!"

Outside, his father was trying to dig up the stump of a tree that had been broken in a windstorm a few months back. Though the village chief, his father was still in his early forties and had a well-toned body thanks to years of working

in the fields.

“See if you can pull this up a little. I have tried digging up the roots but they are too deep and I don’t have a week to spend since your mother wants to turn this into a new flower garden.”

Smiling I walk over to the stump and sit with my back against it. Digging my fingers into the dirt, I try to get a grip on the hard wood. Once I have a good hold I pull up pushing with all the strength in my legs. At first all that happens is that my feet start to sink into the ground, then snapping noise can be heard and the side of the stump tears free of the ground.

My arms are tingling from the strain. Though I have only recently reached my tenth year, there is no one in the village that is as strong as I am. My father takes great pride in this though it doesn’t really seem to fit my small structure. “When will I get bigger?” I ask looking down at my thin arms.

“You’re still a brat,” my father says laughing. “Give it a few more years before you start to worry about that.”

“Sky-kun~”

Turning around I see Milisa-chan running toward me. She is the same age as me with long blonde hair and bright blue eyes.

“Sky-kun! Papa is going hunting so that we can welcome the Dragon Knight!”

Milisa’s father was one of the village’s hunters. He had been the first one to notice the rise in the numbers of monsters in the northern forest. With the northern forest off-limits the village had been forced to hunt in the much farther western forest that was more than an hour’s walk from the village.

“Papa wanted Sky-kun to help and said I could come too.”

I wanted to wait until dragon knight arrive but looking at Milisa’s beaming face, I could only reply with a weak “Ok.”

I follow Milisa whose father is waiting for us near the edge of the town. In the past, they had used Skyler’s father’s horse and wagon to carry large game but since the horse died three years ago and no one had the money to buy a new one. Instead, whenever there was heavy pulling to be done, a smaller cart was

used and Skyler had been made to pull it.(T.L. LOL!!)

“Sky-kun thank you for coming to help,” Milisa’s father said with a smile.

“It is ok Jea-san, my father would be sad if I didn’t pull my weight as the son of the village chief.”

Jea led the way while I pulled the cart. Milisa walked beside us at first but soon she had jumped into the cart. “*Go faster Sky-kun,*” she said almost whispering into his ear. Making his face turn slightly red.

“Milisa don’t bother Sky-kun otherwise I will make you pull the cart,” her father said with a sly smile on his face.

“No fun!” Milisa replied with her cheeks puffed out.

Looking over my shoulder, I let out a small gasp. Milisa-chan looks so cute when she pouts. I keep my words to myself. Red-faced I turn back to the front. Jea, seeing my reaction, gives me a smile making me hang my head shyly.

“Are you hot Sky-kun your face is red? I have some water,” Milisa says holding out a small bamboo canteen out toward me. I take it without saying anything and quickly take a drink and hand it back.

When we reach the forest Jea tells us to wait. Even though I am strong because I am still a child, I am still not allowed in the forest since there is a chance of a monsters. It annoys me but my father says that I can’t be treated different and have to wait until my twelfth birthday to enter the forest like the other children.

While Jea hunts, Milisa and I play a stone skipping game. After nearly three hours and two trips into the forest, we are ready to head back to the village. Jea has caught four rabbits, a squirrel, and a deer. The cart is loaded and heavy but I still don’t have any trouble pulling it. With the dead animals in the back, Milisa no longer wants to ride and instead walks beside me.

“Trouble,” Jea says with a worried expression.

Raising my head I look in the direction of the village to see a small line of smoke coiling in the air. “Mother!” I say and without thinking I run as fast as I can back toward my home not even hearing Jea’s worried cries for me to stop.

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Chapter 2

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I can feel the tightness in my chest as I force my legs to move. I don't even notice that I am still pulling the cart, with its god-knows-where contents, nor that my fingers had dug into the hard wood leaving behind deep gouges.

"Uaaah!" a startled gasp escapes my lips as I get my first glimpse of what has befallen the village.

"Ogre," the word comes out of my mouth as my feet come to a halt in front of the brutish creature.

Ogres were man-like creatures that stood on average of eight feet tall. With light brown or dark green skin as tough as a hardened leather they were a brutish race that lived and hunted in families with one male and many females. Skyler had heard of them but it had been more than twenty years since they had been spotted this far south.

As I look in the large dark eyes of the monster it lets off a devious grin showing a row of pointed teeth as it raises a large club above its head. My knees shake as I jump away from the creature and landing hard on my side. The club hits the ground hard less than a foot away the impact sending small tremors into the ground. Scrambling to my feet, I rush between near by houses and run as fast as I can toward my home.

On my way home, I notice more than a dozen ogres along with numerous goblins fighting against the struggling townsfolk. My thought does not sway into thinking about helping because I was too busy fixated on getting to the small house near the center of the village. As I draw close, I see a small lifeless body with long blonde hair lying just outside the door the house and my blood runs cold.

Approaching slowly, large tears can't help but run down my cheeks as I walk. I know that it's a woman. I know that she has the same hair as my mother. I also see that she is wearing the same dress my mother had on this morning. However, parts of me still refuse to accept the truth. Shaking like a twig in a

windstorm, I reach out my hand and touch the shoulder of the woman and turn her over onto her back.

“M-mother...” the words escape my lips as my hand lightly touches her face. My tears land on my mother’s face as I look toward the clear sky. Pulling mother to my chest, my body trembles as I hug her lifeless body. My thoughts were already in disarray.

“I...I promise I won’t let father cut my hair again...I’ll run away if I have to... I’ll keep it long just like you like it...I’ll even cross dress if you want...I’ll be the nicest daughter ever...just please, please, wake up!” I beg, while brushing my hand against her cold cheek, and wipe away the tears.

As he looked at his mother’s lifeless face, he remembered that every night she had brushed his hair. During those hours, he had always talked lovingly with his mother. As he thought that he would never again hear her soft voice, a coldness swept through his body.

The sound of footsteps approaching slowly behind me as I cry with my mother cradled in my arms. Turning my eyes, I see an ogre coming toward me with a vicious grin on its face as if it’s enjoying my struggle against the truth. Looking into the creature’s face, my chest suddenly feels as if it’s on fire.

“Why?” I ask tearfully as my heart screams out for an answer.

Suddenly, I start to rise off the ground with tendrils of silver and blue lighting-like energy pours out from my body. Surprised, I tighten my grips and holding on to mother more tightly afraid that I would drop her. I don’t care what is happening, all I can feel is hate towards the creature in front of me. I notice hesitation in the ogre’s eyes as it raise its head looking at me. The joyful expression on its face is gone, replaced by confusion and a hint of fear.

Sky didn’t care about the Ogre at that single moment he wanted everything to disappear. He just wanted for his mother to open her eyes.

Closing my eyes and holding my mother tightly, I forget about the world.

Lex saw the signs of trouble coming from the village when he topped the last hill. Urging his earth dragon, he only hoped that he could reach them in time to

help, but he was still nearly half an hour away.

A fifteen minutes after the first signs of smoke had risen into the sky, a large blue and silver form appeared, looming over the town. Even at a distance, Lex could make out the beast clearly. After nearly twenty years serving as a Dragon Knight, Lex was convinced nothing could surprise him but what he saw and the power he felt nearly made him release his bladder.

Towering over the village, a large dragon he had never heard of before let out a roar of pure energy. At first, he had thought that this would be an easy assignment even when taking on alone. Now, Lex wasn't sure if even the Royal Dragon Corps could win if there were to confront the dragon. However, he pushed aside his fear and carry on to his duty, urged his dragon go faster.

He lost track of how much time passed but suddenly, the blue and silver dragon started to flicker and disappear as if it were made of smoke. He was close now, and could see two small forms floating down from where the beast had been.

“What in the hell...”

Lex said as he looked upon what had once been a village. Most the houses had been reduced to piles ashes and those that did not were now rubble lit on flame. The presence of powerful magic still hung heavy in the air as he entered the village.

“Ughhh,” Lex had to cover his nose and mouth as the smell of burning flesh assaulted him. The charred bodies of humans, ogres, and goblins littered the ground.

Within the mass of destruction, only two bodies were left untouched. Checking the two, I find a child, surprisingly a boy, holding on to the lifeless form of a woman, possibly his mother. From the boy's body, small sparks of blue and silver energy cracking out at random, eventually stopping after sometime. I have seen a lot of magic in my life and knew instinctively knew that the dragon before had been made by this child. Cold sweat pour from my body just looking at the aftermath. Gripping the hilt of my sword, only one thought crosses my mind.

“This child—is a threat.”

Before I have a chance to pull my sword free from its scabbard, I am knocked to the ground and surprise to find my dragon standing between me and the child when I get up.

“Gorith get out of the way.”

I order the dragon but for the first time in my life, Gorith refuses to obey. The dragon was bonded to me and should he or I die, the other would follow. But looking at Gorith, I knew that should I advance, my life would be forfeited.

“Fine.” I say after a tense moment and let go of the hilt.

I proceed to give the supposed mother a proper send off to the afterlife by burning her remain. After that, I decide do a search for survivors, but reconsider when remembering that all the corpses I saw since I enter the village’s vicinity were all sizzling with smoke. The chances of anyone surviving is practically zero. Feeling that there is nothing else to do here, I lift the boy up and I place him on top of my saddle on Gorith’s back.

As we left the town I wonder how I would report this incident to the lieutenant. Regarding about the boy, he has natural skills as a tamer. Gorith’s action confirmed this, but if the others know of his true strength, it will cause a massive uproar. As if reading my mind, Gorith stops and lets out a low growl.

“Ok. Let’s bring him home for now.” I reply after a heavy sigh.

I have two other children but both of them are away at school and my wife has been hoping for another. It might not be perfect but I will just have to find a way to explain what happened without mentioning the boy’s power.

Besides the unconscious Sky, there was one lucky person that survived, the lone figure sat on the edge of the village, her eyes had long ran out of tears. She had watched as her father ran into the village leaving her behind. She was unable to move while witnessing all that happen from the moment the huge dragon appeared until it disappeared. Until finally spotting her childhood friend emerged in the dragon’s place. When everything was over, she timidly crawled toward the village looking for her father. After a long search, on the edge of the village, his body lay lifelessly on the ground with a large hole in the center of his

chest. Now, unable to utter a sound nor shed anymore tear, she emptied the contents of her stomach onto the ground beside her motionless father and collapsed onto his chest as her consciousness darken.

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Chapter 3

Chapter 3

“What have you done!?” the shrill voice of his mother rang from outside the house.

I look out the window and watch as my mother scolds my father for cutting my hair. It had been well past my shoulders and kept getting tangled when I was working. When he heard me complain, he took it as a chance to trim it. My mother was **not** pleased. I rush out to try calming her down but as I tug on her dress, she turns around. What I see wasn't her face gentle and caring eyes, but instead her gaze was a lifeless one.

“Mother!”

Jumping up with a startled scream I wake to find myself in an unfamiliar place. The bed is large enough for two people and the covers feel pleasant against my skin instead of the itchy wool that I have gotten used to. There was one window in the room and small pink curtains block the view to the outside, but I could tell that it was close to midday from the light streaming through.

“You're finally awake,” a surprised voice says from the corner of the room. Turning I found a woman near my mother's age who is carrying a tray with a small bowl and towel.

I think I should say something but no matter how hard I tried, words won't come out of my mouth.

“I will bring you something to eat so don't strain yourself,” the woman said while having a warm smile.

A few moments later, the woman returns carrying a bowl of porridge and a glass of juice. My stomach starts to grumble as the smell of the food reaches my nose making the woman giggle slightly. She places the bowl down on a small table next to the bed and places her hand on my forehead.

“You had us quite worried sleeping for three days. Oh where are my manners, I forgot to introduce myself, my name is Anne.”

I look at her and tilt my head slightly, yet still no words come out of my mouth. I pick up the bowl and take a small spoon at a time. It tastes so good as if I hadn't eaten anything in a week. As I was eating slowly, Anne watched me with a concerned expression.

"Can you tell me your name?" She asks as I sit the now empty bowl aside.

For a few brief moments, I think about what I should say but in the end the word that comes out of my mouth is strained.

"Skyler."

I state my name as if I am trying to speak through clenched teeth.

"Skyler-kun, please rest for as long as you need."

Anne said before picking up the empty dishes and leaving the room.

As I watch her leave, I think there is something I should say, but no matter how hard I ponder, nothing comes to mind. The harder I think the less words come to mind.

Does it matter everyone is gone. I think to myself as I remember the bodies littering the town I had always called home.

I closed my eyes and tried to go back to sleep but whenever I close my eyes, I see my mother's lifeless face. Hopping off the bed, I open the door to the room and find a long hallway. After searching for a bit, I managed to find the door leading to the outside.

My body was bathed in warmth light as soon as I stepped out of the large house. Also, in that moment, I heard a loud grunting sound coming from the southern side of the building. Moving around, I find myself looking at a large grey creature with a bulky body with a long neck and two small wings.

"Dragon, it's a real dragon."

The creature I had always wanted to see was now standing in front of me silently eating. Noticing me, the dragon lifts up his head as I stared at him then he goes back to eating.

After a short time, a smaller dragon appeared and walked up to where Sky was watching the larger dragon and started rubbing its head against his shoulder.

Though the new dragon was obviously a child, it was still the size of a large horse as the fully grown one was the size of Sky's old house.

Reaching up, Skyler pats the dragon's head that was lowered to rub against him. The skin under his hands felt rough, yet familiar for some reason.

"It seems that Lorna has taking a liking toward you."

Alight voice said from behind me. A girl about sixteen came around holding a saddle and started to put in on the smaller dragon, who happily licked the girls face making her task that much harder.

After she had got the saddle cinched down and had checked the straps three times she sat down beside him.

"I'm Lilly. Mom said that you woke up Sky-kun but I didn't know I would find you out here."

I looked at the young girl and smiled. She had good features with light brown hair and eyes. Her voice was warm and comforting, but Skyler still couldn't find any words to say to her.

"Lorna is my dragon since I have already bonded her, but if you want, I can take you on a ride." Lilly said when Sky turned his eyes away and looked back to the dragon.

Hearing her offer to take me to ride the dragon, I can't help but nod my head vigorously while at the same time my mind was vigorously yelling "please!" though for some reasons, the word didn't reach my lips.

"Common then," Lilly says as she takes my hand and pull me toward the smaller dragon. As I near the dragon, it looks at me and give a deep whiff then go down on its legs to the lowest it can so that it is easy for me to climb up. Lilly, watching her dragon's behavior, gives tilt her head quizzically and climbs up in front of me.

As we move out, Lilly grabs my arms which and dangling at my sides and pulls them around her waist.

"You need to hold on tight otherwise you will fall Sky-kun."

I feel hot as my face reddens but I do as I was told and keep my arms wrap

around her slim waist. As I was holding on, sudden jerk in the dragon's movement makes my hands slip and they brush the bottoms of the soft mounds. After that happened a few times, Lilly looks back at me and gives me a harsh glare.

"Keep a good hold." She says. The pleasant voice from earlier was gone.

Lilly guides the dragon to a small creek that runs from a wooded area and brings the dragon to a halt and climbs down. I follow suit and get off the dragon. My sides and button hurt as if I had been continuously kicked. Seeing me walk slightly bowlegged as I rub my hindquarters, Lilly give a short laugh.

"You'll get used to it." She says floating a bright smile.

"Stay here with Lorna. I need to gather a few things for mother." Lilly says as she heads into the forest.

I watch as she leaves then I walk next to the creek and sit down. Lorna nudges me with her head then positions herself behind me. Leaning my back against the dragon, I look at the sky while listening to the dragon breathing.

I don't know how much time has passed but suddenly Lorna raises her head slightly and looks to the ground a little to my left. Following her line of sight, I notice a small white snake slithering slowly toward me. I am slightly startled at first but I feel no danger from the creature as it curiously crawls toward me.

When it was within my reach, the snake lifts its head as if gesturing me to pet it, which I do so with my hand as it was looking at me with small silvery eyes. Having grown up near the woods I have seen a good variety of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes, but I have never seen a white one before.

Carefully I pick up the snake with my left hand and lifted it up. It was so small that it easily fit into the palm of my hand. Using my right hand I rubbed the top of the snake's head and a soft purring like that of a cat could be heard, which was strange. Smiling, I continued until I heard a noise coming from the forest. Knowing that Lilly must be returning I sat the snake back down and readied to leave but the snake didn't seem to want to be parted as it crawled up my boot.

Smiling, I picked the snake back up and placed it in the pocket of my cloak. I thought that the snake might have hated it but I could clearly hear the sound of

its soft purring. After a few moments I peered inside to see a small ball sleeping soundly.

How very strange.

Turning my eyes back to the forest I watched as Lilly came into view carrying a small brown sack. Lorna causally walked over and rest beside me, where I stand and once again gives a bemused expression. I looked at her gesturing as if asking her ‘what?.’ I really wanted to ask it out loud but once again, the words only sounded in my mind and refused to leave my lips.

“I have never seen a dragon act so calm around anyone but their bonded partner or family of the bonded. Just like papa said, you seem to be a person loved by dragons.” Lilly said nodding her head.

“Well we better get back to the house before mother begins to worry.”

This was the start of my life with a new family.

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